

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives, Kilton Kime and Gang Luo, during a personal interview on May 21, 2002. The substance of the interview is incorporated in the remarks below.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

At the interview, Applicants indicated that the Office Action did not acknowledge consideration of information provided in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 9, 2000. The Examiner acknowledged receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement and that consideration would be acknowledged in the next Patent Office communication.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action rejects claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 3-7 are amended, as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the article of "Real-time holographing azo-dye-doped liquid crystals" by Chen et al.; claims 1, 2, 4, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the article of "Polarization holographing 3: Some applications of polarization holographic recording" by Todorov et al.; claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Savant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,384,221); claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Savant; claims 1-5 and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Natansohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,173,381); and claims 1-6 and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,024,784). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended as discussed during the interview. Independent claim 1 recites that information in the form of at least one light intensity hologram and at least one polarization hologram is multiplexingly stored by the optical storage medium. This amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, a description of recording and retrieving multiplexingly recorded light intensity hologram and polarization hologram is in the section of "Fifth embodiment" on page 27 in connection with Figures 21a-c. Also, the recording and retrieving of a light intensity hologram is disclosed on page 13, line 25-page 15, line 17 in connection with Figures 3a and 3b, and generally at page 8, lines 2-10.

As discussed during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record disclose, teach or suggest these claimed features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over all of the references of record. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 51 and 52 are cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 51 and 52 are moot.

New claim 53 depends from claim 1 which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 53 is also allowable.

IV. Conclusion

For at least these reasons it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: May 29, 2002

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Changes to Claims:

Claims 51 and 52 are canceled.

Claim 53 is added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) An optical storage medium comprising a polarization-sensitive member having a photo-induced birefringence property, wherein information in a form of at least one light intensity hologram and at least one polarization hologram is multiplexingly stored by the optical storage medium.

3. (Amended) The optical storage medium as set forth in claim 1, wherein the polarization-sensitive member comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a photoisomerizable photoisomerizable moiety as a side chain and a liquid crystal polymer.

4. (Amended) The optical storage medium as set forth in claim 1, wherein the polarization-sensitive member comprising a polymer and photoisomerizable photoisomerizable molecules dispersed therein.

5. (Amended) The optical storage medium as set forth in claim 3, wherein the photoisomerizable photoisomerizable moiety includes azobenzene structure.

6. (Amended) The optical storage medium as set forth in claim 3, wherein one of the polymer and the liquid crystal polymer is a polyester-type polymer.

7. (Amended) The optical storage medium as set forth and in claim 1, wherein the substrate is in a form of a disk.

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